

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the Draft EIR provides a discussion of existing conditions and applicable laws and regulations related to recreation facilities, and analysis of potential effects from implementation of the proposed Project.

### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### Existing Conditions

##### *Regional Facilities*

The proposed Project Site is located in the City of Long Beach (City) in Los Angeles County (County). According to the Long Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, a regional park must be a minimum of 175 acres and accessibly to communities within a ½ hour drive time.<sup>1</sup> By this definition, the City holds two regional parks including El Dorado Park and beach property. El Dorado Park consists of 401 “regional use acres” and multiple amenities including an activity center, bicycle trails, and a nature center.

##### *Local Facilities*

The City includes a wide variety of recreational space and activities available to the public. Recreational amenities in the City include 92 parks, 26 community centers, 5 City-owned golf courses, 5 swimming pools, and 247 acres of public beaches spanning 11 miles of shoreline;<sup>2</sup> the total recreational park space acreage for the City consists of 2,750 acres.<sup>3</sup> There are also three marinas owned and operated by the City: Rainbow Marina, Shoreline Marina, and the Alamitos Bay Marina.<sup>4</sup> The downtown Rainbow Marina is the smallest with 86 boat slips, Shoreline Marina has 1,744 boat slips, and Alamitos Bay Marina is the largest with 1,967 boat slips.<sup>5</sup>

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- 1 City of Long Beach, General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>. Accessed March 2021.
  - 2 City of Long Beach, General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>. Accessed March 2021.
  - 3 City of Long Beach, General Plan, Land Use Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/advance/lueude/land-use-element-final-adopted-december-2019>. Accessed March 2021.
  - 4 City of Long Beach, General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>. Accessed March 2021.
  - 5 Long Beach, General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>. Accessed March 2021.

Equestrian, bicycle, walking, and skating trails can also be found throughout the City. An equestrian trail is located adjacent to the Los Angeles River, immediately west of the Project Site. Additionally, bicycle and pedestrian trails can be found along the Los Angeles River. An estimated 64 miles of bikeways are located throughout the City, 35 of which have been separated from any roadway traffic. Shoreline, river, and park trails are available to pedestrians, bicyclists, as well as skaters.

As stated in the City's General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, the City of Long Beach's goal for providing adequate park and recreational facilities to its residents is 8 acres per 1,000 residents. According to the U.S. Census, the estimated population of the City of Long Beach was 462,628 in the year 2019 <sup>6</sup> and the City documented over 2,750 acres of recreation space in the same year. This means that the current ratio is 5.9 acres per 1,000 residents which is below the City's goal.

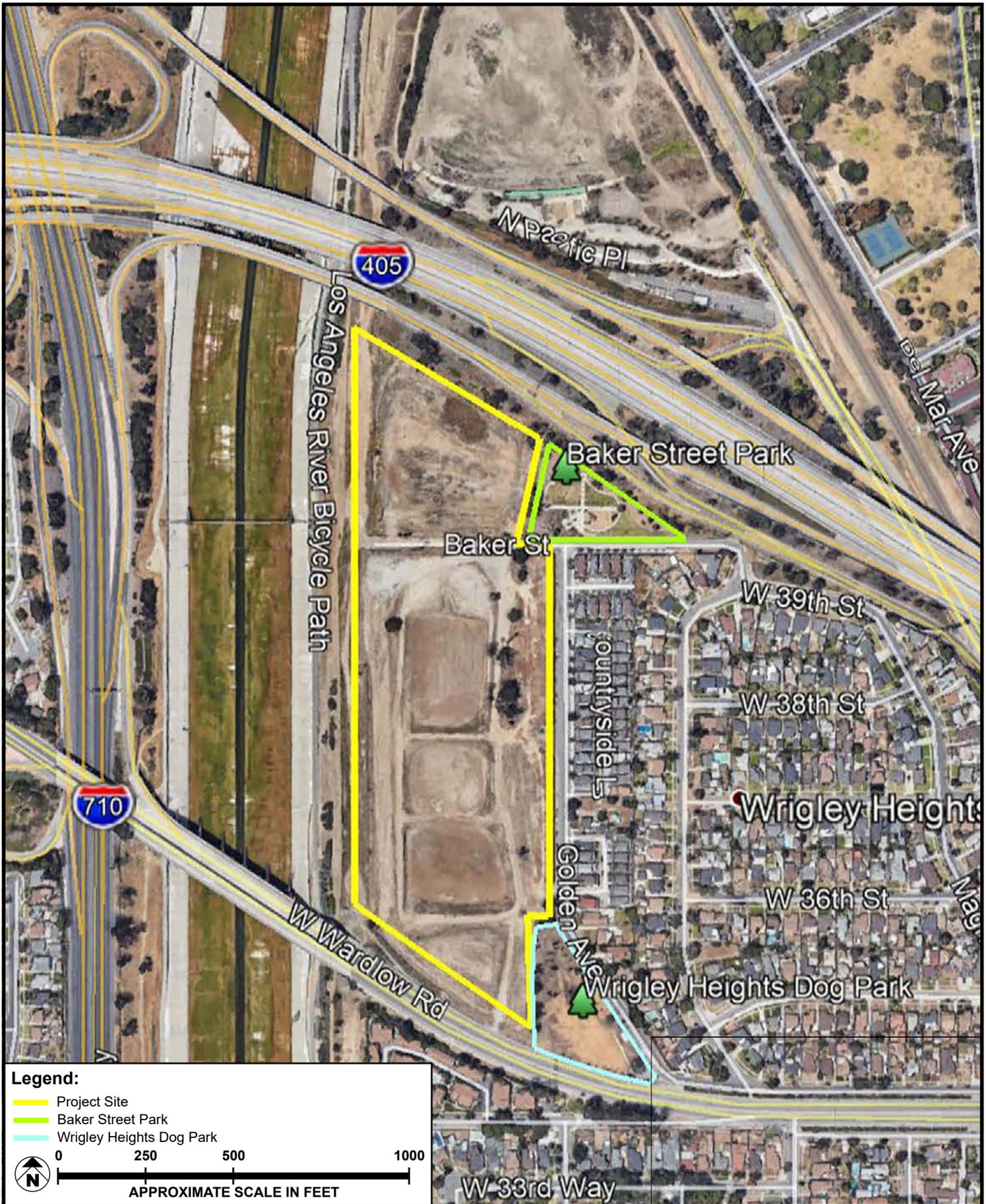
### ***Project Site and Surrounding Area***

The 20-acre Project Site is currently adjacent to two public parks: the Baker Street Park (1.23 acres) to the north and the Wrigley Heights Dog Park (1.9 acres) to the south (see **Figure IV.L-1: Project Site and Neighboring Parkland**). There are currently no recreational facilities on the Project Site, but the two public parks located adjacent to the proposed Project Site are available to the surrounding residential community. The Baker Street Park includes picnic areas, a playground, and a walking path. The Wrigley Heights Dog Park features the dog run with an entry area for unleashing or holding dogs when entering or leaving the park, benches, and a water fountain.

A third public park, Los Cerritos Park (8 acres), is located approximately 1.3 miles northeast from the Project Site and includes a playground, two tennis courts, picnic areas and a restroom building. This park is located directly north of Los Cerritos Elementary School. There are also existing equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian trails that run along the LA River adjacent to the west side of the Project Site.

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6 U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts, Long Beach City, California, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/longbeachcitycalifornia/PST045219>. Accessed March 2021.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2021

FIGURE IV.L-1

### 3. REGULATORY SETTING

#### ***California Government Code, Section 66477 (Quimby Act)***

The Quimby Act authorizes the legislative body of a city or county to require the dedication of land or to impose fees for park or recreational purposes as a condition of the approval of a tentative or parcel subdivision map, if specified requirements are met.<sup>7</sup> The act states that the dedication of land or the payment of fees shall not exceed the amount necessary to provide three acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision subject to this section, unless the legislative body decides to increase the amount to a higher standard such as 5 acres per 1,000 residents.

#### ***State Public Park Preservation Act***

The 2019 California Public Resources Code includes guidelines for the State's Parks and Monuments. This division outlines regulations that aim to promote and regulate the use of the State park system in a manner that conserves the scenery, natural and historic resources, and wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations.<sup>8</sup> Under PRC Division 5. Parks and Monuments, Chapter 2.5, cities, counties, or public agencies are restricted from acquiring any land that is currently used as a public park for any reason other than use as a public park, unless compensation is provided or an alternative location for a public park is identified.

#### ***City of Long Beach General Plan***

The Long Beach General Plan is a policy document that establishes the goals and policies of the City. The Land Use Element, Housing Element, Open Space and Recreation Element within the General Plan describe the existing condition in the communities that the City serves and what future needs would be required to support projected local population growth.<sup>9</sup> The City Council adopted the most recent Housing Element in 2014 and the most recent Open Space and Recreation Element in 2002. The City of Long Beach General Plan describes multiple policies that enforce core goals for parks and recreation spaces throughout the City.

The following policies contained in the Land Use, Housing, Open Space, and Urban Design Elements describe core goals for parks and recreation spaces throughout the city and are relevant to the proposed Project:

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7 Assembly Bill 1191, Ch. 276, Quimby Act.

8 Public Resources Code, Division 5 Parks and Monuments, Ch. 1 State Parks and Monuments, Article 1, sec. 5001.1.

9 City of Long Beach, General Plan, Housing and Open Space Elements, <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/advance/general-plan/>. Accessed March 2021.

## Land Use Element

- Goal 4:** Support Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement
- Goal 7:** Provide Reliable Public Facilities and Infrastructure to Encourage Investment
- Goal 8:** Increase Access to, Amount of and Distribution of Green and Open Spaces

## Housing Element

- Policy 3.5:** Continue to improve streets and drainage, sidewalks and alleys, green spaces and parks, street trees, and other public facilities, amenities, and infrastructure.

## Open Space Element

- Goal 4.2:** Achieve a ratio of 8.0 acres of publicly owned recreation open space per 1,000 residents.
- Policy 4.1:** Create additional recreation open space and pursue all appropriate available funding to enhance recreation opportunities.
- Policy 4.6:** With the help of the community, plan and maintain park facilities at a level acceptable to the constituencies they serve.
- Policy 4.8:** In creating additional recreational opportunities, priority shall be given to areas of the City that are most underserved.
- Policy 4.9:** Encourage the provision of the non-City-owned recreation resources to supplement what the City is able to provide.
- Policy 4.10:** Require all new developments to provide usable open space tailored to the recreational demands they would otherwise place on public resources.
- Policy 4.13:** Give special consideration to handicapped and disadvantaged residents in accessing public recreation resources.
- Policy 4.14:** Develop an open space linkage/trail plan.

## Urban Design

**Policy UD 30-1:** Preserve and enhance access to existing open space through improvements to existing facilities and wayfinding programs for new and existing open spaces.

**Policy UD 30-4:** Encourage projects to integrate required open space with a beneficial relationship to the public realm (e.g., connecting a paseo to the sidewalk, providing a layered landscape design and private patios along the sidewalk, connecting an internal courtyard visually or physically to the sidewalk).

## ***City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan***

The City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) Strategic Plan was first developed in 1999. The goal of the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan is to direct the Department’s recreational programming, park and facility development and improvement, and administrative decisions over a period of ten years. The most recent 2003 PRM plan includes the following goals:<sup>10</sup>

- **Goal 1:** Ensure Open Space Parks and Recreational Facilities Meet Community Needs.
- **Goal 2:** Ensure City Parks and Recreational Facilities Provide Positive Experience and Image.

## ***Long Beach Municipal Code***

The Long Beach Municipal Code is a City adopted set of codes that establish and organize the many facets of City-wide activities; this includes:

*Establishment of certain offices and boards; the conduct of City government; organization to cope with disasters; fire prevention; police and traffic regulation; public safety; public welfare; public works; buildings and signs; prohibition of certain defined acts, and punishment for violation of Code provisions; regulation, control and licensing of businesses, trades, professions and other occupations; health and sanitation regulations; oil production; use of land in the City; municipal gas service and rates; regulation of City streets; operation of public facilities; and other matters of general interest.*<sup>11</sup>

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10 City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, & Marine, Strategic Plan Executive Summary (2003), [http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/park/media-library/documents/business-operations/about/strat\\_plan\\_exec\\_summ](http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/park/media-library/documents/business-operations/about/strat_plan_exec_summ). Accessed March 2021.

11 City of Long Beach Municipal Code, Ch. 1, sec. 1.04.010.

Under Title 18, Chapter 18 of the LBMC, a park impact fee is imposed on new residential developments to assure City parkland and recreational facility standards are met with respect to additional needs created by a proposed Project.<sup>12</sup> The purpose of this fee is to fund parkland acquisition and recreation improvements incurred by the City.

Additionally, Chapter 21 section 21.31.340, includes residential development standards based on required park space. This section states that “each PUD shall provide a minimum of fifteen percent of the site area as common usable open space, in functional, active recreation area(s).”

### ***Other Recreation Facility Planning Studies***

#### **Long Beach RiverLink**

In January 2003, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine contracted with the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project, a local nonprofit agency, to manage a study of the opportunities to create a continuous greenway along the east bank of the Los Angeles River. The west bank of the Los Angeles River was not included in the study due to the close proximity of the 710 Freeway, and the discussions that were taking place regarding its potential redesign. The plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in December 2004 as the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project’s final report. It was approved in concept by the Parks and Recreation Commission in April 2005, with staff suggested revisions and recommendations.<sup>13</sup>

In 2007, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine created an updated document based on the previous concepts provided by the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project. The Riverlink Report provided a vision of an integrated open space system and a framework to connect west side neighborhoods, and greater Long Beach, with the Los Angeles River. On February 15, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved RiverLink in concept, and recommended that the study be forwarded to the Planning and Building Department for inclusion in the General Plan update. The goals of Riverlink are:

- To identify areas for the acquisition of additional open space.
- To identify ways to connect city residents to the Los Angeles River.
- To identify locations along the Los Angeles River where the native habitats could be restored.
- To improve the aesthetics of the Los Angeles River and the City.

The RiverLink plan has four main components: Destinations, Gateways, Pathways, and Connections. Each of these planning concepts is set forth below.

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<sup>12</sup> City of Long Beach Municipal Code, Title 18, Ch. 18.18 Park and Recreation Facilities Fees.

<sup>13</sup> City of Long Beach, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Long Beach RiverLink. February 2007.

*Destinations:* Destinations are places where accessible recreational open space or habitat restorations are located. The Project site is located within Destination 7: Wrigley Heights – South. Also located within Destination 7 are the Los Angeles River Right-of-Way and two City-owned parcels, Wrigley Heights Dog Park and Baker St. Park. The RiverLink Plan recommends that as much of the area become an open space destination as possible, suggesting recreational components such as a restored wetland, riparian woodland, neighborhood park, pedestrian and bike paths, and other features.

*Gateways:* Gateways are those points where a visitor begins the journey along a pathway towards a connection or destination. The closest suggested Gateway marker is located at approximately Pacific Ave. and Wardlow Road. This location is located outside of the Project area, and this aspect of the RiverLink Plan is not directly applicable.

*Pathways:* Pathways facilitate movement in and around the neighborhoods to the Los Angeles River. There are two types of Pathways in RiverLink: the Los Angeles River Trail (LARIO trail) and CityLinks. CityLinks are bicycle and pedestrian pathways that connect neighborhoods to the LARIO trail. A Citylink is proposed surrounding Destination 7, connecting back to the Wardlow Road Class 2 (on-street) bicycle path. The recommended CityLink includes lands outside of the Project area and this aspect of the RiverLink Plan is not directly applicable.

*Connections:* Connections link pathways together. The RiverLink Plan identified Connections providing access to the LARIO trail or the Destinations. The closest Connections to the Project area are north of the 405 freeway and at approximately Spring St. and Pacific Ave. As these Connections are well outside of the Project area, this aspect of the RiverLink Plan is not applicable.

## **Los Angeles River Master Plan**

Los Angeles County is updating the LA River Master Plan, a comprehensive approach covering all 51 miles of the LA River. The effort was launched to update the original 1996 Master Plan, synthesizing more recent ideas for portions of the River and bringing a comprehensive vision to the transformation of the LA River. As part of this effort, the County of Los Angeles, through the Department of Public Works, is the Lead Agency and is preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to evaluate any potential impacts to the environment pursuant to the CEQA.<sup>14</sup> The LA River Master Plan includes the LA River Trail that runs along the eastern side of the river and also identifies the potential for park space at the Project site.

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14 Los Angeles County Public Works. Los Angeles River Master Plan: Program Environmental Impact Report. <https://pw.lacounty.gov/swq/peir/>. Accessed May 4, 2021.

## Open Space Acquisition Study

In February of 2021, the Long Beach City Council requested the City Manager to study the feasibility of acquiring open space for park development along the Los Angeles River consistent with the Long Beach RiverLink Plan and the Lower LA River Master Plan. The Park Acquisition Feasibility Report, completed in April 2021, identified properties that may be opportunity sites that could be further considered for possible acquisition, along with information on possible acquisition methods and funding sources that may be available for park acquisition.<sup>15</sup> The goal of this study was to identify areas within the western Long Beach that were most feasible to develop park space in order to improve park equity and increased quality of life for all residents. As the Park Acquisition Feasibility Report built upon the concepts of the RiverLink Plan, the Project site, as well as sites to the north and south along the east side of the river, were identified in the report.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Thresholds of Significance

To assist in determining whether the proposed Project would have a significant effect on the environment, the City finds the proposed Project may have a significant impact related to recreation if it:

**Threshold REC-1: Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

**Threshold REC-2: Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

## 5. METHODOLOGIES

The analysis in this section addresses the impact of the Project on recreational facilities within the City . This assessment is based on the City's planning standards for recreation facilities (i.e., parkland per capita ratio) and the increase in population that would result from the Project. Analysis of existing and proposed

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<sup>15</sup> City of Long Beach. Park Acquisition Feasibility Report. April 2021. <https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-manager/media-library/documents/memos-to-the-mayor-tabbed-file-list-folders/2021/april-5--2021---open-space-acquisition-study> . Accessed November 2021.

recreational facilities uses the City's existing ratio of park acreage per thousand residents to calculate the impact of the proposed Project.

## 6. PROJECT IMPACTS

**Threshold REC-1: Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

### ***Construction***

During construction of the proposed Project, short-term related effects would occur including a temporary population increase due to construction workers. This increase is anticipated to be negligible since workers for construction projects typically would not relocate to a project location due to the varying nature of their work locations. Therefore, it is not expected to increase the local population surrounding the Project Site. Workers are also unlikely to utilize the nearby recreational facilities as the workers would typically commute to work on the Project Site and leave the local area after the workday. Without contributing to local population increase or utilizing Project adjacent recreational resources, construction is not anticipated to substantially increase usage of local recreational resources and would not contribute to substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational resources due to population increase.

Additionally, construction activities would not encroach on adjacent park facilities and the LA River trails or dramatically impact the utility of nearby recreational facilities, which would render the facilities unusable during the construction duration or introduce substantial physical deterioration to the recreational facilities. Construction of the proposed Project would maintain approximately 8 feet from the edge of the private property line and would not reach the edge of the LA River bike trail. Any and all construction impacts to nearby recreational facilities would be temporary in nature and the impacts would cease after the construction activities are complete. Returning all conditions of the adjacent recreational facilities to its original state of operation. Therefore, construction activity impacts to nearby parks including the adjacent Baker Street Park northeast of the Project Site and Wrigley Heights Dog Park southeast of the Project Site would be less than significant.

### ***Operation***

Development of the Project would generate an estimated 624 residents and provide 5-acres of recreational park space. The Homeowner's Association for the proposed residential development will maintain the 5-acres of active park space to the north of the Project Site, which would introduce trails connecting to the existing Baker Street Park and the realigned Baker Street to be used by Long Beach's Public Works' Department for public facility maintenance. This park space and recreational area would be

open to the public and contain established walking trails, look-out points, an open grass area, a butterfly garden, and exercise equipment. The grass area would be sufficient in size for use as a soccer field or for other active sports activities. The sidewalks within the residential development would connect to the park space area trails, creating a seamless pedestrian connection between the residential complex and the recreational park space to the north.

The recreational facilities provided by the Project would be consistent with the recreational facilities' goal of the City consisting of 8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.<sup>16</sup> The proposed Project's recreational park space to resident ratio would be approximately 8 acres per 1,000 residents which would adequately support the recreational needs of the additional residential population and existing population. Operation of the proposed park space would contribute to the City's park space deficit and also provide additional space for local residents to participate in activities. Additionally, the proposed Project exceeds the 15 percent minimum total active park space requirement by setting aside approximately 5 acres of Project area as active park space, achieving approximately 24 percent of active park space at the site.<sup>17</sup> Based on the park land to resident ratio provided by the proposed Project which is above the park land to ratio existing in the City, the proposed Project is not anticipated to increase use or contribute to substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities.

Additionally, in accordance with the Quimby Act, the City assesses park space development fees for new residential development. Pursuant to Chapter 18.18 of the LBMC, all residential developments are required to pay park fees prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. This fee is intended to be used for the acquisition, improvement, and expansion of public parks and/or recreational facilities. Pursuant to Chapter 18.18.100 of the LBMC, any applicant who contributes improvements to the City for the acquisition of park land or the construction of recreation improvements, may be eligible for a credit for such contribution against the park fee otherwise due. With the park space and recreational facilities included in the proposed Project and payment of park fees as required, impacts to park facilities during operation would be less than significant.

Considering the short-term and less than significant impacts on nearby parks and trails from construction, the ratio of park space provided by the proposed Project during operation, and the park fees required by the State and local guidelines there would be less than significant impacts to recreational facilities.

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16 Long Beach, General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>. Accessed March 2021.

17 LBMC, Ch. 21, Section 21.31.340 (F).

**Threshold REC-2: Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

The Project includes the proposed improvement of a 5-acre park space area north of Baker Street, immediately west of the City's existing Baker Street Park. There is also a clubhouse and pool proposed at the southern end of the residential development. The proposed park space is within the boundaries of the Project Site which is currently vacant. The site contains primarily scattered vegetation with few native plants and wildlife. For details regarding biological resources on site, please refer to **Section 4.C: Biological Resources**.

**Construction**

Project construction would include site clearing, bioremediation, demolition and grading, utility installation, and finally housing construction over a period of 44 months. The water quality treatment facilities previously functioning on the site were removed in 2001. Remediation of the contaminated soil on site has been ongoing since 2001 and the soil in the settling basins have been regularly tilled as part of the remediation activities. In compliance with a Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), an approved Remedial Action Plan (RAP) would be required prior to commencement of construction activities. Implementation of the approved RAP would treat the remaining contaminated soil on site. Additionally, it is proposed that an engineered cap be constructed over the existing soil on site over the 5 acres proposed for park space development. The engineered cap would prevent any residual contaminants from coming into contact with future users of the park space.

Construction activities have the potential to introduce airborne sediment and soil, stormwater runoff, and noise to the local area. However, Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be in place to ensure that any impacts to nearby recreational facilities would be reduced to the extent feasible. BMPs implemented during the construction duration would include, but are not limited to Tier 4 construction equipment, wind screens, watering exposed soil on site, using equipment mufflers and shields on exhaust ports, not simultaneously operating numerous pieces of heavy-duty off road construction equipment, among other measures. These measures would reduce the potentials impacts to users of the adjacent parks and LA River trails during construction activities. For details regarding potential project construction air quality, stormwater, and noise impacts please refer to **Sections 4.B: Air Quality, 4.I: Hydrology And Water Quality, and 4.J: Noise**.

Lastly, no new construction or expansion of existing park facilities beyond the proposed park space, would be required by the implementation of the proposed Project. As such, implementation of BMPs would reduce any impacts to recreational facilities to less than significant.

## Operation

As discussed above, the Project is estimated to generate approximately 624 residents and the proposed park space would be sufficient to support the estimated increase in residents. The proposed park space area would connect to the nearby Baker Street Park to the east and include similar aesthetic elements.

As discussed above, the City's RiverLink Plan provided guidance and recommendations for open space planning by the City and led to the Open Space Acquisition Study. These studies identifies the Project Site as a potential location for open space along the river corridor. The proposed Project includes an approximately 5-acre park to the north of the proposed residential development, which includes connected pathways to surrounding parks. Public amenities are proposed in the proposed park that may include a youth soccer field, walking trails, look-out points, a butterfly garden, and exercise equipment. This feature of the Project is consistent with the RiverLink Plan and Open Space Acquisition Study.

The LBMC includes noise standards for areas within District 1<sup>18</sup> or predominantly residential uses with other land use types. According to these standards, daytime noise levels must not exceed 50 dBA (7:00 AM – 10:00 PM) and nighttime levels cannot exceed 45 dBA (10:00 PM – 7:00 AM).<sup>19</sup> It is not anticipated that a significant increase in ambient noise would occur due to the similar park space uses within the vicinity of the Project site. Activities within the park space could include running and walking on designated trails, soccer games, and exercise using provided parcourse equipment. Operational noise levels attributed to activities within the recreational area would be confined to the hours of operation of the park and would be comparable to existing nearby noise levels from similar uses. These activities would also not be increased to a level that would be perceptible to existing residents. Refer to **Section IV.J Noise** for more analysis on noise impacts.

Vegetation included in the landscape design would fit into the overall character of the surrounding landscape. Lighting would be provided throughout the park space area for security, wayfinding, and pedestrian paths safety. In accordance with City guidelines, on-site lighting would be shielded to reduce light levels onto off-site uses as well as prevent light aimed upwards to remain in compliance with Dark Sky requirements.<sup>20</sup> Lighting for the proposed Project would be similar to the surrounding area and those existing at the Baker Street Park and would not obstruct any views. The proposed recreational area would be similar in terms of function and views as the surrounding recreational facilities and would not add additional impacts that are not already present in the area.

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18 The Project Site is designated as a District 4 area of the City, which applies to majority industrial uses. However, the Project Site is bordered by areas designated as District 1, which have more stringent noise standards than District 4.

19 LBMC, Ch. 8.80, 8.80.160 – Exterior noise limits.

20 LBMC, Ch. 21, Section 21.41.259 Parking Areas – Lighting.

The proposed park would increase the parkland to population ratio as the addition of 5-acres of park space is well above the minimum requirement of 15 percent, and the Citywide 5 add to the surrounding resources within the area. The proposed park would add to the local availability of park space, further reducing the Project impacts to the surrounding area. Considering the short-term construction related impacts and the Project's consistency with the City's parkland to population requirement, the expansion of recreational activities would not have an adverse physical effect on the surrounding environment.

The operation of the park space would not significantly increase noise or impact the surrounding view as the elevation of the parkland development would remain similar to its current elevation and comparable park uses at the adjacent Baker Street Park already exists.

## 7. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A cumulative analysis for recreational facilities evaluates whether impacts of the proposed Project and related projects, when taken as a whole, would have a significant environmental impact on recreational resources. The geographic area for cumulative analysis of recreational resources is the City of Long Beach. The City is located in a highly developed urban setting with most new development occurring as in-fill development, such as the proposed Project. As described above, the proposed 5-acre recreational facility attached to the Project Site would be adequate for serving the additional population growth associated with the proposed development. The proposed residential and park space development would have a less than significant effect on the existing recreational facilities in the City.

Additionally, the City is looking to expand local recreational facilities with plans to develop a new park immediately north of the proposed Project and north of the I-405. The 11-acre site (APN 7140014940) is located north of I-405 and runs east of the Los Angeles River. The property is currently owned by Los Angeles County. The City is planning to work with the County to development the 11 acres site into a public park.<sup>21</sup> The County has halted any other plans for this property in order to discuss with the City the potential for future open space. Staff have begun examining potential funding sources, which could include grants and support from other State and Federal sources.

The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on existing recreational facilities by providing approximately 8 acres per 1,000 residents of park space to the local community, higher than the existing park land to resident ratio and consistent with the City's recommended park land to resident ratio. In addition, the payment of park in-lieu fees, the dedication of parkland as required by the Quimby Act,

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21 City of Long Beach. Park Acquisition Feasibility Report. April 2021. <https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-manager/media-library/documents/memos-to-the-mayor-tabbed-file-list-folders/2021/april-5--2021---open-space-acquisition-study> . Accessed May 2021.

and the CEQA evaluation on a Project-by-Project basis would ensure City's long-term demand for parks is met over time. Based on the analysis provided, the proposed Project, combined with other reasonably probable future related developments would not result in a significant cumulative impact related to recreational resources.

## **8. MITIGATION MEASURES**

The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on recreational resources. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

## **9. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on recreational resources. Therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.